

OPINION 2303 (Case 3520)***Boccardia proboscidea* Hartman, 1940 (Annelida, SPIONIDAE): specific name conserved**

Abstract. The Commission has conserved the specific name *Boccardia proboscidea* Hartman, 1940 for a widely dispersed mudworm (family SPIONIDAE) from California by giving the name precedence over its rarely used senior subjective synonym *Polydora californica* Treadwell, 1914. The untypified name *Spio californica* Fewkes, 1889 has also been suppressed.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Annelida; SPIONIDAE; *Boccardia proboscidea*; *Polydora californica*; *Spio californica*; mudworm; California.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power, the Commission has:
 - (a) ruled that the name *proboscidea* Hartman, 1940, as published in the binomen *Boccardia proboscidea*, is to be given precedence over *californica* Treadwell, 1914, as published in the binomen *Polydora californica*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
 - (b) suppressed the name *californica* Fewkes, 1889, as published in the binomen *Spio californica*, for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy.
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *proboscidea* Hartman, 1940, as published in the binomen *Boccardia proboscidea* and as defined by syntypes USNM 20217 and LACM-AHF POLY 1226, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over *californica* Treadwell, 1914, as published in the binomen *Polydora californica*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
 - (b) *californica* Treadwell, 1914, as published in the binomen *Polydora californica*, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over *proboscidea* Hartman, 1940, as published in the binomen *Boccardia proboscidea* and as defined by syntypes USNM 20217 and LACM-AHF POLY 1226, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms.
- (3) The name *californica* Fewkes, 1889, as published in the binomen *Spio californica* and as suppressed in (1)(b) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 3520

An application to conserve the specific name *Boccardia proboscidea* Hartman, 1940 for a widely dispersed mudworm (family SPIONIDAE) from California by giving the name precedence over its rarely used senior subjective synonym *Polydora californica* Treadwell, 1914, and setting aside most previous type fixations for *Boccardia*

proboscidea Hartman, 1940 was received from Vasily I. Radashevsky (*A. V. Zhirmunsky Institute of Marine Biology, Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Vladivostok, Russia*) and Leslie H. Harris (*Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, CA, U.S.A.*) on 13 March 2010. After correspondence the case was published in *BZN* 67: 203–210 (2010). The title, abstract and keywords of the case were published on the Commission's website. One comment by the authors with an alternative set of proposals which removed the request 'to set aside all previous type fixations for *proboscidea* Hartman, 1940, as published in the binomen *Boccardia proboscidea*, and to designate a neotype' was published in *BZN* 68: 134–136.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 March 2012 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in *BZN* 67: 207. At the close of the voting period on 1 June 2012 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 18: Ballerio, Bogutskaya, Brothers, Halliday, Harvey, Kottelat, Krell, Kullander, Lamas, Minelli, Pape, Patterson, Rosenberg, van Tol, Winston, Yanega, Zhang and Zhou.

Negative votes – 3: Kojima, Lim and Štys.

Alonso-Zarazaga split his decision, voting FOR: (1)(b), (3); AGAINST: (1)(a), (2). Grygier also split his decision, voting FOR 1b, 3; AGAINST 1a, 2a, 2b.

Bouchet abstained. Fautin, Ng and Pyle were on leave of absence.

Voting AGAINST, Štys said he could not see any compelling reason why the Commission should select as syntypes just two specimens from the series (= 'holotype-lot') as he felt that the status of the remaining syntypes would be unclear. He suggested that a lectotype be selected, and thus the remaining specimens from the type series would become paralectotypes automatically. In Štys' view Hartman's general idiosyncratic concept of 'types' did not have any bearing on the case. Moreover, by not suppressing *Spio californica* Dewkes, 1889 fully, i.e. also for the purposes of the Principles of Homonymy, he suggested that there would still be a danger of appearance of this name as a senior secondary homonym should the species be eventually recognized as a member of *Boccardia*.

Voting AGAINST, Kojima said that the name *Boccardia proboscidea*, could be stabilized by designating a lectotype from the syntypes. He felt it was not clearly mentioned to what extent the synonymy of *Polydora californica* Treadwell, 1914 and *Boccardia proboscidea* Hartman, 1940 had been accepted in the taxonomic community, thus he did not see the current necessity to give *Boccardia proboscidea* Hartman, 1940 precedence over *Polydora californica* Treadwell, 1914

Alonso-Zarazaga, who SPLIT his vote, said he considered it advisable to get rid of the name *Spio californica*, which is unrecognizable. However, he thought that the Principle of Priority must be strictly applied in the case of the two species described in the 20th century. He felt that the nomenclatural instability in this case would be minimal. Grygier, who also SPLIT his vote, said he would have voted in favor of the proposals related to conditional reversal of precedence if the holotype of Treadwell's *californica* were lost or unusable, and the taxonomic identity of his nominal species were thus unclear, but such was not the case.

Bouchet ABSTAINED, and commented that the polychaete *Boccardia proboscidea* is the subject of a significant body of literature in aquaculture, genetics and marine biology in general. It was thus conceivable that the name should technically be protected against an unused senior synonym. However, he felt that the technical solution proposed by the applicants (conditional reversal of precedence) was a source of instability; he would have preferred that the name *Polydora californica* be placed on the Official Index. Furthermore, in a family where cryptic species abound, this vote was a missed opportunity to unambiguously link the name to a sequenced neotype.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and Indexes by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

californica, *Polydora*, Treadwell, 1914, *University of California Publications in Zoology*, **13**(8): 203.

californica, *Spio*, Fewkes, 1889, *Bulletin of the Essex Institute, Boston*, **221**: 37.

proboscidea, *Boccardia*, Hartman, 1940, *Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences*, **30**(9): 383.